

1889-90 The Handstamp Surcharges.1 Att on 2 Alts.

When these surcharges were first produced, the inscription was applied in three portions, the two numerals and the word Att (alt) being on separate handstamps. It seems almost certain that some, probably several of the handstamps used for the Att on 2 surcharge were employed for the Att without alteration, while various figures, both Siamese and English, were employed to complete the surcharge. This condition has been termed Setting A.

Stamps surcharged in this way are known belonging to Type 1 and 4, and Type 4 is known in no other condition. It seems probable also, that the sheets thus prepared never had a control on the back, and further, that this clumsy method of surcharging was given up by January, 1890.

A few blocks are also known of Type 1 in which all the Siamese characters are on one handstamp, and the Arabic figure on another. These are known as Setting B.

By January, 1890, however, handstamps had been prepared with the whole surcharge, probably by binding together the individual pieces previously used separately, and by far the larger proportion of the 1889-1890 Handstamp Surcharges were overprinted by such. A large number of them are known in which the Arabic numeral is of Type 1, at least two of Type 2, and one of Type 3. This condition forms Setting C.

Control-dates are known on the backs of the sheets as follows:

<u>Type 1.</u>	<u>Type 2.</u>	<u>Type 3.</u>
Jan. 18 '90	Apr. 4 '90	Mar. 6 '90
Mar. 6 '90		
Apr. 4 '90		
Apr. 21 '90		

These dates probably accurately indicate the order of issue and the duration of surcharging.